The Present

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH and FRENCH

Sugar Colonies,

And our own

Northern Colonies,

CONSIDERED.

Together with some Remarks on the DECAY of Our TRADE, and the IMPROVEMENTS made of late Years by the *French* in Theirs.

By WILLIAM PERRIN, *Esq*;.

LONDON:

Printed for T. COOPER, at the *Globe* in *Pater-noster-Row.*

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The Preſent State of the Britiſh *and* French *Colonies*, &c.

THE great Importance of the *Britiſh* Sugar-Colonies to this Kingdom, and the miſerable Circumſtances they are reduced to, having lately engaged the attention of the Legiſlature, who ſeem diſpoſed to relieve and encourage them; and to that end have required the Thoughts of ſome Perſons vers'd in the *Weſt-India* Trade: And as I think it a Duty incumbent on every Individual to contribute what lies in his power towards rendering effectual ſo beneficial and laudable a Diſpoſition; I ſhall, with that View, offer ſome Sentiments that have occurr'd to me on this Occaſion, as well as in regard to Trade

and Navigation in general, and the extraordinary Progreſs *France* has of late years made in theſe Articles; and hope that ſome Hints may be collected therefrom, which, improved by their Wiſdom, and enacted into a Law, may be of peculiar ſervice to both, and go a great way towards preventing the pernicious Practice of introducing *French* Sugars into our Northern Colonies and other Parts of the *Britiſh* Dominions; which has been but too long carried on under the Denomination of *Engliſh* Produce: A Grievance ſo deſtructive in its Conſequences, not only to the *Britiſh* Sugar-Colonies in particular, but to our Trade and Navigation in general (as I ſhall make appear in the following Diſcourſe); That if it were once effectually put a ſtop to, the preſent good Intentions of the Legiſlature would in a great meaſure be anſwered.

IT has been remark'd, and indeed but too truly, that theſe ſort of Enquiries, tho' frequently ſolicited and called for, have for the moſt part had the misfortune to be very ſhort-liv'd; and die almoſt as ſoon as born, without producing any notable Effect. This unlucky Circumſtance ought not however to diſcourage any from doing their Duty; for as all things have their periodical Times and Seaſons, what might not be thought ſo eſſential heretofore, may be deemed indiſpenſably neceſſary, according as Time and Incidents vary the face of Affairs. I ſhall therefore proceed, as I propoſed;

poſed: And in order thereto, I muſt firſt premiſe, That no Endeavours, no Laws whatſoever can be expected to produce the deſired Effect, unleſs they tend to enable the Planter and Merchant to afford our Growths and Manufactures at as low a Rate in foreign Markets as the *French* can do theirs. And this of courſe leads me to conſider, whether ſeveral of the Regulations and Reſtrictions comprized in an Act paſſed in the eighth Year of our preſent Sovereign, Intituled, *An Act for granting a Liberty to carry Sugars of the Growth, Produce or Manufacture of any of his Majeſty's Sugar-Colonies in* America *from the ſaid Colonies directly to foreign Parts, in Ships built in* Great-Britain, *and navigated according to Law*, will have the Effect I juſt now mentioned: Which I apprehend was the Deſign of it, at the Time the Act was made: and I ſhall be able to prove inconteſtably, that thoſe Reſtrictions cannot produce the Effect propoſed: That they are detrimental to, and hinder the Increaſe of our Navigation: That they abridge conſiderably the Profits to the Nation in general, as well as the publick Revenue; and at the ſame time diſcourage the Planter from making thoſe Improvements, and deter the Merchant from adventuring in ſuch manner, as they might otherwiſe reſpectively be encouraged to do.

THE Reſtrictions which I propoſe to conſider, and which I look upon to be ſo many Cramps on the Sugar Trade, are contained in

the former part of the Act, and may be comprehended under the four following Heads; *viz.*

I. THAT a Licence be firſt taken out in *Great-Britain* by the Maſter of any Veſſel that is intended to be employed in carrying Sugars from our Sugar-Colonies to foreign Markets.

II. THAT ſuch Ship or Veſſel ſhall be built in *Great-Britain*, and navigated as is directed by the Act of Navigation.

III. THAT the major Part of the Owners ſhall *not only* be Subjects of *but* reſiding in *Great-Britain*.

IV. THAT the Reſidue ſhall be reſiding either in *Great-Britain* or in ſome of his Majeſty's Colonies, and not elſewhere.

IN objection to the firſt Article or Condition, it muſt be granted, That a State of the Markets abroad, and the Prices Sugars bear in our Sugar-Colonies, is what muſt determine the Merchant or Planter to forbear, or encourage him to take out a Licence for, and Charter a Veſſel to load Sugar. I will even ſuppoſe (what I am afraid is not very likely to happen in the preſent Circumſtances of our Trade) that the Prices of Sugars at foreign Markets ſhould, at one time or other, give encouragement enough to undertake an Adventure from our Colonies thither: It may, and indeed is moſt probable it ſhould, if at all, happen at a Seaſon

Season of the Year, when the Ships fit to be employed in such a Trade are sailed to the *West-Indies*; their Loading perhaps engaged for there, and scarce a Probability remaining that a Vessel could be sent from hence to arrive in time, to secure or purchase a Loading. There is indeed another Discouragement our Merchants and Planters labour under, from the natural Consequences of the present necessary War with *Spain*; which, tho' temporary, must inevitably give the *French* the Advantage over us, with respect to foreign Markets, as long as they remain free from the same Difficulties; I mean the Articles of Insurance and Freight; the former being risen above *Cent. per Cent.* and the latter to about Eighty *per Cent.* more. So that this extraordinary Charge alone, more than what the *French* Sugars are subject to at present, cannot fail of carrying the Trade from us in their favour; and in effect, this added to the Difficulties and Discouragements already mentioned, will be found to amount to neither more nor less than an absolute Prohibition

To remove therefore part of the Difficulties mention'd under this first Head (and which in time may be removing the whole, when either the Success of his Majesty's Arms shall have procur'd us an honourable Peace, or that the *French* should become Parties in the War) I shall humbly propose an Expedient or two, which I hope will be found to answer

anſwer, ſo as to render effectual the good Intentions of the Parliament in paſſing the aforeſaid Act.

THE firſt is, That the Governours or their Deputies in the *Britiſh* Sugar-Colonies be impower'd to grant ſuch Licence, as is already ſpecify'd in the Act, to any *Britiſh* Subject under their Juriſdiction as ſhall apply for the ſame.

I DON'T apprehend any reaſonable Objection that can be offered againſt it; for it affects the Revenue no more than a Licence would do, if taken out in *Great-Britain*. The Export to foreign Markets is undoubtedly what the Legiſlature deſign'd to encourage; for whatever that amounts to, is undeniably ſo much Profit to the Nation. The Duties on the Returns, whatever that be (as thoſe Returns are to be made to *Great-Britain*) is likewiſe an Addition of ſo much to the Revenue. There can be no room to doubt but the Markets in *Great-Britain* will always be ſupplied from our Colonies with the Sugars they may have a Conſumption and Demand for; and it would be abſurd to ſay they will, or can take off more; therefore the Duties ariſing therefrom muſt conſequently be the ſame, whether we ſhould have or not an Export for our Sugars to foreign Markets.

THIS being allowed, it remains to ſhew what Advantage a Licence granted at our Sugar-Colonies, would be to the Adventurers.

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And that it would be very conſiderable, I think will appear to a Demonſtration from the following Example.

A SHIP of Three Hundred Tons Burthen fit for that Trade, as Freights now govern, could not be Charter'd in *Great-Britain* for ſuch a Voyage at leſs than Sixteen Shillings *per* Ton *per* Month, which on the whole Burthen is equivalent to 240 *l.* *per* Month. Ten Weeks is the leaſt that can be reaſonably allow'd from the Time of her being Charter'd to her Arrival in *Jamaica:* Which, at the foreſaid Rate, amounts to 580 *l.* The Loading for ſuch a Ship, if built as the *Jamaica* Traders are for Burthen, would be about 500 Hhds, which at 10 *l.* 10 *s.* prime Coſt there, would amount to 5250 *l.* Now it neceſſarily follows, That if the Government there, had Power of granting Licences, a Ship of the ſame Burthen might be Charter'd on the Spot; which would ſave to the Adventurers the Sum of 580 *l.* for the Time allow'd a Veſſel charter'd in *Great-Britain* to make her Paſſage in to *Jamaica:* And is upwards of Eleven *per Cent.* on 5250 *l.* the firſt Coſt of her Cargoe; beſides the Advantage of getting, in all likelihood, ſo much ſooner to Market, whereon for the generality depends the good or ill Succeſs of the Voyage.

THIS would be ſome Relief and Encouragement to the Adventurers, but ſtill falls ſhort of the Aſſiſtance neceſſary; and which

might

might be further given them without any ill Conſequence to the Nation or the Revenue, and would enable them, in a great meaſure, even under the preſent diſadvantagious Circumſtances of the War, to ſhare again a conſiderable Part of the Trade to foreign Markets, which the *French* for ſome Years paſt have depriv'd us of. For tho' they have certainly an exceeding great Advantage in their Favour, by the Richneſs of their Soil, and the extraordinary Produce it gives from the Regularity of their Seaſons, which ſeldom fail in new open'd Lands, we again on our Part have ſome Advantage in the Freight of our Produce, which is conſiderably leſs than what they pay. And as this is the only natural Advantage we have or can expect, it ought to be improv'd to the utmoſt it is capable, in order if poſſible to regain that valuable Branch of Trade into our Hands. What I have already mention'd is, I think, one promiſing Step towards it; and if the Power of granting Licences was further extended to any Ship or Veſſel built in and belonging to his Majeſty's *Britiſh* Subjects in *America*, to load Sugars and likewiſe Rum for foreign Markets, I am perſuaded we ſhould bid fair for Succeſs; it would give us at leaſt a Share in that Trade, and thereby the Intentions of the Legiſlature be anſwer'd in that Particular, as well as in regard to the Encouragement and Encreaſe of our Navigation.

I AM

I AM well aware of ſome Objections that re likely to be made againſt the Extenſion I have been ſpeaking of; and therefore before I ſhew the ſeveral Advantages that would there-by accrue to the Nation in general, and to our Merchants, Planters, and others his Majeſty's ubjects of *Great-Britain* and *America* in par-icular; I ſhall in the firſt Place anſwer ſuch s at preſent occur to me, and which I think re all that can be offer'd under any plauſible retence or Shew of Reaſon.

THE firſt, and which to me ſeems the oſt material is, That it will diſcourage and rejudice our Navigation in *Britiſh* built ottoms.—— But our *New England* and North-ard built Ships have already, as indeed in aſon they ought, the ſame Liberty of car-ying the Produce of our Sugar-Colonies to *reat-Britain* directly, that the *Britiſh* built nes have: Therefore it is natural to ſuppoſe, hat if ſuch Employ had been more profitable nd encouraging to the *American* built Veſſels, han what they are otherways engag'd in at reſent, they would doubtleſs have purſu'd , and ſhar'd at leaſt a Part therein. The iberty propos'd, gives them no more Advan-ge over the *Britiſh* built Veſſels in this reſ-ect, than they had before in the other; and onſequently the ſame Motives, which have itherto prevented their interfering in that ranch, will ſtill hold, and hinder their en-aging in This: That is to ſay, as long as

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they can find an Employ of their own, which is of more or equal Advantage with the Sugar-Trade, it is not likely that they will go out of their old road; ſo that in this particular it will not leſſen or be prejudicial to our Navigation in *Britiſh* Bottoms.

THE next Objection which I apprehend will be made againſt this Extenſion is, That it will probably diſable the *Britiſh* built Veſſels in proceſs of Time, from ſharing any Part of the Navigation with Sugars from our Colonies to foreign Markets.— But the Advantage and Encouragement propos'd being the ſame, and equally beneficial; that is to ſay, puts both one and the other on a Par; the *American* built Veſſels can have no other Means of gaining this Branch of Navigation to themſelves, than by carrying the Produce of our Colonies to foreign Markets at a lower Rate than *Britiſh* built Veſſels will. I have already obſerv'd, that we have no reaſonable Foundation to expect Succeſs in our Endeavours to regain that Trade, which the *French* have depriv'd us of, unleſs we are enabled, by ſome means or other, to afford our Sugars there, as low and reaſonable as the *French* now do, or can at any time hereafter: That we have no other natural Advantage over them, than the Cheapneſs of our Freights; and therefore, if the *American* built Ships and Veſſels ſhould be able to ſail at an under Rate, which, for Reaſons I ſhall hereafter have occaſion

caſion to mention, I am certain they may at leaſt 15 to 20 *per Cent.* this Difference in Favour of the Adventurers will leave it no longer a doubt whether it be or not the Intereſt of *Great-Britain* to put them upon a footing with *Engliſh* built Veſſels; the Advantage by the former being ſo conſiderable as may gain us that Trade; whereas on the contrary by their being not permitted ſharing in this Navigation, we are in the direct road of being cut out of it entirely. Were the Caſe otherwiſe, and that there was not an Advantage to the Adventurers, by employing the *American* built Veſſels, all Objections againſt permitting them to take out Licences muſt ceaſe of courſe; for no one acquainted with the Goodneſs and Security of one and the other, would ever employ the *American* built Veſſels on the ſame Terms he would thoſe of *Britiſh* built. But I ſhall beg leave to go a little further, and ſuppoſe only for the ſake of the Argument, That our Exports to foreign Markets could not be carried on without Loſs to the Adventurers unleſs in foreign Bottoms: It would nevertheleſs be infinitely the Advantage of the Nation, to encourage it even under this Circumſtance, rather than to have no Export at all; for in this caſe we ſhould loſe thereby no more than the Freight of ſuch Exports; the Net Produce would ſtill be ſo much Profit to the Nation. For as the Conſumption of Sugars at foreign

Markets from *France* only, beſides what is ſupply'd from *Portugal*, &c. by a moderate Computation cannot be leſs than 80,000 Hhds. *communibus annis*, which, at 8 *l.* 10 *s.* *per* Hhd. clear of Freight and all Charges abroad, amounts to 680,000 *l.* This Sum would be the annual Profit to the Nation, if our Colonies could be enabled wholly to ſupply that Demand; and the ſame will hold in proportion for any Part we ſhare therein, with a further Profit to the Nation of the Freight thereon, if the Adventure can be made in our own Bottoms; whereto may be ſtill added the Commiſſions and other Perquiſites, if the Conſignments are made to a *Britiſh* Subject. But it is undiſputably more eligible to encourage our own Navigation in *American* built Veſſels; which at the ſame time that it ſaves us the Expence of Freight to Foreigners, will prevent an ill Conſequence that might ariſe from the latter's being employed; as it would give them an Opportunity of introducing their Linnens, which now our Sugar Colonies are chiefly ſupply'd with of the *Iriſh* and *Scotch* Manufactures, made up and diſpos'd of as *Dutch* and *German* Linnens.

I HAVE already touch'd on the Difference there would be to the Adventurer in the Freight of Sugars by a *Britiſh* built, and one of our *American* built Veſſels: 'Tis what is well known to thoſe who are acquainted with the Trade carried on from the Northern Co-

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lonies to our Sugar Islands: But for the Satisfaction of such as may be Strangers thereto, I will take this Opportunity to observe, that the Northern Colonies depend in a great measure on the Sugar Islands for the Consumption of their Produce, and Encouragement of their Navigation; and the Sugar Islands again are as dependant on them for several Necessaries, which they require, as well for their Improvement as Subsistance; these they are supply'd with in Northward or *American* built Vessels, and for which they are generally paid in Cash. With this Cash they proceed either directly back to the Northern Colonies, or touch in their Way at some of the *French* Islands, and there lay out a Part, or sometimes the Whole, in Molosses, Rum, and Sugar. This is evidently a most pernicious Trade to *Great-Britain*, as well as to our Sugar Colonies; in the first place by draining us of so much Cash, and in the next, as it is detrimental to our own, and at the same time promotes and encourages the Trade of the *French* Sugar Islands. This therefore would be effectually prevented, and our Northern built Vessels diverted from it by choice, if they could find a more beneficial Employ; which a Licence to carry Sugars on Freight from our Sugar Islands to foreign Markets, would certainly be: For as the Freight of their Cargoes from the Northern Colonies to our Sugar Islands is not above 4 *l.* *per* Ton, and they return back either empty,

or

or with the Produce of their Freight inveſted in *French* Commodities; the Freight of a Cargoe of Sugars put on board them at our Sugar Iſlands for a foreign Market at 7 *l.* *per* Ton, which is leſs by Thirty *per Cent.* than a *Britiſh* built Ship could afford to take it in for, would infallibly engage them in ſuch an Employ; as it is evidently ſo much more advantagious than That they are engag'd in at preſent, which is productive of the miſchievous Conſequences I have juſt now mention'd, and may by this means be ſo eaſily leſſen'd, if not entirely prevented. It will likewiſe be attended with other advantagious Effects; as, *Firſt*, That our Sailors will thereby be drawn of neceſſity once a Year to *Great-Britain*, and be made ſerviceable to the Government, if there ſhould be occaſion for them. *Secondly*, The Proceeds of the Cargoes they carry from the Northern Colonies to the Sugar Iſlands, would in all probability be inveſted there, in the Produce of thoſe Iſlands; which, together with the Freight they make to foreign Markets, would enable them to purchaſe a Loading there for *Great-Britain*, which they might leave there on account of Returns, if the Owners ſhould have any to make, or if not, it might be again inveſted in a Cargoe proper to proceed with to the Northern Colonies from whence they came. This would be a new and profitable Acquiſition to our Trade, and very greatly encreaſe our Navigation

ion, which, I doubt not, are Motives ſuffi-
cient to recommend it to the ſerious Conſide-
ration of our worthy Legiſlators.

I SHALL mention another Article, which, if permitted and encourag'd, would be no ſmall aſſiſtance and relief to our Sugar Colonies, as well as promote our Navigation, and be highly advantagious to the Nation; and that is, A Liberty to export Rum to foreign Markets from our Sugar Colonies. The *French* will never interfere with us in this Branch of Trade, as it would leſſen the Demand for their own Brandies abroad. *Jamaica* Rum in particular is already deſervedly eſteem'd amongſt Foreigners; and, I don't queſtion, if it was once thoroughly introduc'd in the *Mediterranean* and the *Levant*, it would ſoon gain a Preference to *French* Brandies, and the Demand for it become very conſiderable. This would very much relieve ſome of our Planters, who ſtand moſt in need of Aſſiſtance, whoſe Lands may be either worn out, or bad, and not proper for making of Sugar; but yet, if it will produce a Cane of any Kind, it will anſwer for making of Rum.

I AM not ſo thoroughly apprized whether Sugars exported from ſuch of our Iſlands as have a general Duty laid on them towards the ſupport of their reſpective Governments, be by the late Act exempted therefrom: If not, this is a Clog which I am afraid will be very difficult to get removed by the legiſlative Body there,

there, and does therefore call for the Conſide-
ration and Favour of their Superiors here.
Some of our Iſlands in particular, which are
worn out and reduced for want of ſeaſonable
Rains, cannot, I am ſenſible, be ſo effectually
benefited by the Encouragements already pro-
poſed, as others that have ſtill the regular Sea-
ſons, and are improveable; but this Defect
might be in ſome meaſure made up to them,
by allowing them a ſmall Bounty on what they
export; and may be more particularly neceſſary
on clay'd Sugars, they being what are chiefly
demanded for *Turkey*, and other Markets in the
Levant. The King of *Portugal*, by Advice of
the old Duke of *Cadeval*, ſome Years ſince,
when the Warehouſes in the Cuſtom-Houſe
were fill'd, and the Kingdom glutted with
Brazil Sugars; to promote the Conſumption of
them abroad, and at the ſame time to reſtrain
the Extravagancy of his Subjects in their expen-
ſive Treats with Conſerves and Sweetmeats,
and other Confectionary-ware, laid a very
heavy Duty on all Sugars that ſhould be con-
ſumed in his own Dominions, and allowed a
Bounty on all that was exported; which ſoon
had the deſired Effect: The Cuſtom-Houſe
in a few Weeks was empty'd, and not a Cheſt
remained in the Kingdom to be purchaſed at
the firſt hand. They gained at the ſame time
an advantagious Trade to *Turkey* and the *Le-
vant*, for their fine *Pernambuco* and *Bahia* Sugars,
and ſeveral other Markets for their *Muſcava-*

does

does, which I believe they ſtill retain by the ſame Encouragement. Therefore, as the *Barbadians* in particular are remarkable for the Goodneſs of their Clay'd Sugars, and are as much diſtreſſed as any of our Sugar Colonies; if a ſmall Bounty were given on all Clay'd Sugars exported from thence to *Turkey*, and other parts of the *Levant*; it would, in all probability, gain us that Trade, and at the ſame time relieve, in ſome meaſure, the Neceſſity of that Iſland. This would be no Detriment to any, but an Advantage to all our Sugar Colonies. 'Tis the Intereſt of all in general, to gain and encourage an Export to a foreign Market: From any one in particular; becauſe the leſs there was remaining to ſend to *Great-Britain*, the better the Markets would be for ſuch as were obliged to ſend their Sugars home. Nor could the Nation ever be injur'd, if by this means the Price of Sugars ſhould ſomewhat advance at home; as the Difference would be only within our ſelves, from the Conſumer to the Vender.

BUT I muſt here give a very neceſſary Caution, leſt, after all that has been ſaid, and were it to be put in practice, our Endeavours ſhould tend to promote and encourage the Intereſt of our Neighbours and Rivals in Trade, inſtead of relieving our Planters, or be of any Benefit to the Nation; and that is, to prevent, under the ſevereſt Penalties, *French* or other foreign Sugars from being introduced into any

of our Iſlands, and ſhipped from thence as *Engliſh* Produce. And this, I think, cannot be more effectually done than by a Certificate from the Planter at the time of ſhipping (for all Sugars whether ſhipped for foreign Exportation or to *Great-Britain)* returnable to the Governour, and by him to the proper Officers in *England*, atteſting upon Oath that the whole Quantity contained in each Caſk is the Produce of that Iſland from whence it is then to be exported. And this may be executed in ſuch a manner as can no ways embarras the fair Trader, nor obſtruct the Courſe of our Trade, which ought always to be rendered as free and eaſy to the Concernds as poſſible; and on the other hand, it behoves in a particular manner the Gentlemen Planters to bear with ſome little Inconveniencies (if what I have been propoſing ſhould be ſo eſteem'd by them) ſince it is to prevent what ſo eſſentially effects and prejudices their own Intereſts as well as the Nation in general. It is pretty well known, and may but too well be made appear, that the *French* and others have found means, by a Trade with ſome of our Iſlands, to introduce amongſt them at leaſt fifteen thouſand Hogſheads of Sugar yearly, which have been afterwards ſhipped to *Great-Britain* as *Engliſh* Produce.

One Reaſon why the Trade betwen our Northern Colonies and the *French* Sugar-Iſlands has not been hitherto impeded, may be owing

to

to our Sailors and others being ignorant of the Laws that are in force againſt it, and the Reward provided for thoſe that ſhall give Information of ſuch deſtructive Practice: And this might poſſibly be remedy'd, if the Maſter of every Veſſel trading or belonging to the *Weſt-Indies* was obliged, under certain Penalties, to have that particular Clauſe of the Act which prohibits ſuch illicit Trade, printed and affixed in ſome publick and convenient Part of the Ship, for the general Information of the Sailors on board. It would then be difficult and dangerous for any Maſter to engage in ſuch a Trade, for fear of being detected and informed againſt by ſome of the Crew on board. And as ſeveral of the coaſting Sloops belonging to our Iſlands, may be navigated only by the Maſter with ſome few Negroes, who are not by the Laws of the Country admitted as Evidence againſt a white Perſon; it would not be amiſs, the better to prevent a Trade ſo pernicious from being carried on by ſuch Means, to provide a Clauſe whereby to oblige all coaſting and trading Veſſels whatſoever, belonging either to the Iſlands or the Continent, to carry ſuch a Proportion of White Men in them, as may be thought adviſeable, according to their reſpective Complements; and this, at the ſame time that it would be a Check upon the Maſter, muſt neceſſarily encreaſe the Number of our Sailors, and in both reſpects be a publick Benefit to the Nation.

WHAT I have already offer'd will abundantly ſhew the Advantages that might be gained to the Nation in general, and to the ſeveral Colonies in particular, by proper Regulations and Encouragements. I ſhall now take notice of ſome late Acquiſitions the *French* have made in their Trade and Navigation, by means of their Sugar Colonies, and other Poſſeſſions in the *Weſt-Indies:* And as every Step that they have gained therein, is actually ſo much that we have loſt; and as we have daily Proofs of their inceſſant Endeavours, by all the Stratagems that they are maſters of, as well as by an unwearied Application and Encouragement of their Trade, to cut us out of every Branch that has been profitable to us; it is more than time that we ſhould exert our ſelves: And if we cannot turn the tables upon them (which yet might be done by ſuitable Aſſiſtance and Encouragement from the Government) I hope at leaſt, ſome good Method may be taken to enable us to preſerve what we have left, as well as to regain what we have been artfully deprived of: And if any thing that I have propoſed ſhould be found to contribute to ſo deſirable an End, I ſhall think my Pains abundantly repaid, in the Pleaſure I ſhall receive from having been ſerviceable to my Country. But to proceed. The *French*, by having a free Navigation to *Ireland*, purchaſe Proviſions there, upon the ſame Terms that *Engliſh* and *Iriſh* Subjects do. Formerly they were ſup-

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ply'd with all they wanted for the *Weſt-India* Conſumption, by *Britiſh* Veſſels, who uſed to load ſuch Proviſions in *Ireland*, and carry them to ſeveral Ports in *France*, where they generally found a good Market for them. But now, That Branch of our Navigation is loſt to us: Beſides, ſince they have ſent their Ships directly to *Ireland* for their Supplies, it is attended with this additional Inconvenience, That they have thereby an Opportunity of clandeſtinely introducing large Quantities of Teas and other *India* Goods amongſt us through that Channel; ſo that inſtead of gaining a Freight, as we were uſed to do by carrying thoſe Proviſions to them, and being paid for them in Specie, they now ſave us that Trouble, and pay for their Cargoes in the Profit they make by the contraband Goods they pour in upon us. With theſe Proviſions again they carry on a private Trade with the *Spaniards* to great Advantage: Which Demand of the *Spaniards* was, till lately, ſupply'd by our ſelves to a conſiderable Profit; and which, by the *French* Policy and our Neglect, we are in a fair way to loſe entirely: And it muſt be obſerved, that *Ireland* does not reap the leaſt Advantage hereby, more than what it would have done if we had ſupply'd the *French* and *Spaniards* in our own Ships as formerly. The *French* have taken off this Year, a much larger Quantity of Beef and other Proviſions than they were ever known to do before, and exceedingly

ingly more than ſufficient to ſupply their own Demands; which has given room for various Conjectures: But I think it appears moſt likely, if not very evident, that they have had notice from the *French* Miniſtry, and Encouragement from the *Spaniards* to ſupply the Demand, not only for their Garriſons in *Africa*, but for the Galleons and their *Weſt-India* Conſumption. 'Tis not improbable that the *Spaniards* have given the *French* the Advantage and Preference, in order to diſtreſs and prejudice our Trade with them in the *Weſt-Indies*, as they have long endeavoured to do by That from *Great-Britain* to *Old Spain*. This ſeemingly unaccountable Policy of the *Spaniards*, ſo deſtructive to their own Intereſts, need be no Riddle when we conſider the Springs from whence it ariſes; and that they are governed by a Prince of the Houſe of *Bourbon*, who, 'tis natural to expect, will be influenc'd by a *French* Miniſtry in favour of his own Country. However, if we take but a prudential Care of our own Settlements, the *Spaniards* will, in all likelihood, be the firſt who feel the bad Effects of the *French* Power in the *Weſt-Indies*; and perhaps, not only give up their pretended Right of Search and Juriſdiction over the *American* Seas, but be glad to grant Us ſome extraordinary Privileges and Advantages for our future Aſſiſtance and relieving them, when they become more ſenſible of their Danger. They are not to imagine the *French* will omit

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ny Opportunity of encroaching upon them, wherever they are allowed once to get footing; nd in the end, riſe up with the whole. Let hem conſider the Share they now hold in the land of *Hiſpaniola*, and by what means they rſt gain'd entrance there; which was only y an abandon'd and deſperate Crew of Buc-aniers and Pirates, who ſettled themſelves on he North-Weſt Part of that Iſland, and firſt ade application to his late Majeſty King *Wil-m* for his Protection and Pardon. But whe-er from a Principle of Honour, or Reluct-cy to countenance a Set of Men who had en common Enemies to Mankind; or, for nt of being duly inform'd and adviſed of Importance it might prove to the Nation Futurity, I can't pretend to detemine; but certain they were neglected; which gave em an Opportunity of addreſſing themſelves the *French* Government, who not only took m into their Protection, but encouraged and iſted them with every thing neceſſary to m and eſtabliſh their Settlement. From s Beginning, they acquired the greateſt and t Part of the Iſland, which they now poſ-s; and were it their Intereſt to have the ole, they would not be long without it: But preſent it is better for them that the other rt ſhould remain ſtill in poſſeſſion of the *aniards*, who no ways interfere with the lture and Manufacture which the *French* are ag'd in, but are beneficial to it: The *Spa-*

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niſh Inhabitants following little or nothing more than Paſturage for raiſing of Cattle, which they ſupply the *French* with, for the Service of their Sugar-works and other Occaſions; and which are purchaſed at very low Rates with *French Eaſt-India* Goods, ſome Manufactures of *France*, and *Iriſh* Proviſions. They have likewiſe an Opportunity, by means of the *Spaniards*, to put off large Quantities of theſe Commodities to the Veſſels that are conſtantly coming from ſeveral Parts of the *Spaniſh* Continent to *St. Domingo*; where the laſt Tribunal of Appeals in the *Spaniſh Weſt-Indies* is politically held, on purpoſe to draw People to that Part of the Iſland, whoſe Expence and Traffick ſupports the *Spaniſh* Inhabitants, who otherwiſe would deſert it. Theſe Advantages leave no room for the *French* to covet the whole; eſpecially, as they have already as much of it as they can well manure; and as they have no occaſion to open Land for Paſture the Seaſons will for that reaſon continue the longer, and be favourable for their Crops.

THE *French* have been no leſs induſtrious in improving their Fiſhery at *Cape Breton*, where they have yearly at leaſt four hundred Sail of Ships, and near one half of this Number make two Voyages in the Year; and not content with the Advantage of that alone they find means of introducing large Quantities of *French* and *India* Goods into our Northern Colonies, and may thereby in time, with

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ome other new Artifice, carry the Proviſion rade of Flower, Bread, &c. to their Sugar olonies, and be able then to ſupply all the emands of the *Spaniards*, render our Nor- ern Colonies, as well as the *Spaniards*, de- endent on them, and deprive our own Sugar olonies from that profitable Trade to the oaſt.

THESE are Advantages which the *French* thoroughly ſenſible of, and which they tainly will endeavour privately or publickly promote. To convince any one, of Their nſe of the Matter, he need only peruſe the emorials of the *French* Deputies of Com- rce to the Royal Council; in one whereof y ſet forth, "That the Navigation of *France* owes all its Encreaſe and Splendour to the Commerce of its Sugar Iſlands; and that it cannot be kept up and enlarg'd o- therwiſe than by this Commerce; which, beyond all doubt, is more beneficial to the State, than all others that are driven by that Nation."—I think, the extraordinary couragement and Aſſiſtance, that has been en, and is ſtill continued wherever they d it neceſſary, for the Settlement or Im- vement of their Sugar Colonies, ſhews dently what I have quoted to be as well Sentiments of the King and Miniſtry, as is of the Deputies of their Commerce. n it be thought then that our Sugar Colonies leſs beneficial, or of leſs Conſequence

to *Great-Britain*? Surely they are not! They have been, and may be again, if rightly encourag'd, equally, nay much more, advantagious, by a very profitable Trade which they carried on for many Years to the *Spaniſh* Coaſt, with Goods from *Great-Britain*, and Proviſions from our Northern Colonies. 'Tis on theſe latter that our Sugar Colonies muſt depend for ſeveral Neceſſaries they require, as well for their Improvement and carrying on their Buſineſs, as for their Subſiſtance. The Trade between them is mutually beneficial, and ought equally to be encourag'd, as it tends upon the whole to the Advantage of their Mother Country, and the encreaſing its Navigation. The Welfare, nay the Security of *Great-Britain* it ſelf, in a great meaſure depends thereon. Is it not evident what the *French* have in view, by encouraging in ſo extraordinary a manner their Settlements in the *Weſt-Indies*? They are ſenſible how beneficial our Northern Colonies have already been to them, by enabling them to make and enlarge their Settlements at *Hiſpaniola*, and in what degree they ſtill, and always muſt need a continuance of many neceſſary Supplies from thence for their Support: They are well appriz'd of the Advantages they ſhall reap by a Trade carried on to the *Spaniſh* Coaſt with Proviſions and other Neceſſaries from our Northern Colonies and from *Ireland*; which they are, doubtleſs, at this time, encourag'

to by the *Spaniards*, as I obſerv'd before, in order, if poſſible, to take that Advantage out of our Hands, as they have done already that of our Trade to *Old Spain*. The *French* have always favour'd and encourag'd the Trade and Veſſels of our Northern Colonies, in conſequence of the Avantages I have already mention'd; whereto may be added another of no ſmall importance to them, and that is, the taking off their Rum and Molaſſes in return, which otherwiſe would be uſeleſs, and of no value to them; Rum being prohibited amongſt themſelves, that it may not interfere with, and diminiſh the Conſumption of their own Brandies. From what I have already obſerv'd we may reaſonably conclude, that the *French* Policy will lead them on to much greater Lengths, if they are not timely prevented; and put them on endeavouring, by ſuitable inducements, directly or indirectly, to render the Trade from our Northern Colonies with them ſo beneficial and advantagious to the *Britiſh* Subjects, as may at length lead them inſenſibly into a kind of Dependency on the *French*; and if they ſhould ever ſucceed thus far, they will then undoubtedly put them upon cultivating and improving every thing that the Country will produce, that may be any ways uſeful or neceſſary towards promoting and encreaſing their Navigation. This is a Point, which I think requires the ſerious Conſideration and Attention of the Legiſla-

ture. How many noble and beneficial Improvements to *Great-Britain*, propos'd to be made in the Northern Colonies, have been render'd ineffectual, and become abortive from the Misrepresentations of them to the Honourable *House of Commons*, by Gentlemen who had only private Views of Advantage to themselves in so doing? Nothing has been more common, when other Arguments have been likely to discover a sinister Purpose, than to set forth the Danger of encouraging our Northern Colonies, by representing them as having a View of making themselves independent of *Great-Britain*; than which nothing sure can be more malicious or absurd: Not but that were such a Scheme practicable, nothing would be more likely to put them upon it, than the Discouragements and Disappointments they may encounter from such ungenerous Treatment from their Mother Country. It is indisputably the Advantage of *Great-Britain* to enable the Planters in all our Colonies, to raise and dispose of with Profit as much of their Produce as they possibly can; not only what is sufficient for our own Consumption, which saves our purchasing so much from our Neighbours, but all they can for foreign Exportation; as the whole Proceeds thereof is so much Profit to the Nation, and at the same time promotes our Navigation. If any Steps or Measures should be injudiciously pursued, that in the least tend to dis-

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courage the Planters, *Great-Britain* muſt inevitably in the end feel the bad Effects of it. I will, by way of Specimen, mention one Inſtance with regard to *Virginia* and *Maryland*; which, with ſome Variations in Circumſtances, will hold in all the reſt of our Colonies: And that is, That twenty Hogſheads of their beſt Tobacco they uſed to expect would yield them Net from 120 *l.* to 150 *l. Sterling*, clear of all Charges; but when they were by the high Duties here, and for want of a Conſumption and Demand for them abroad, brought ſometimes in Debt by them; this Diſappointment, as it depriv'd them of the accuſtomary and neceſſary Supplies of Wearing-apparel, *&c.* ſo it firſt put them upon ſetting up of Manufactures of their own. They began with ſaving of Skins, which 'till then were thrown away; and employ'd their own Slaves and Servants to tan them. They then put ſuch as had been brought up to the Trade in *England*, to make Shoes: In this manner, by meer Neceſſity, and for want of proper Care and Encouragement at Home, they firſt ſet up ſeveral other Manufactures to the Prejudice of *Great-Britain*, from whence they us'd to be ſupply'd with them; but as ſoon as their Tobacco came to be again in demand at Home, and the *French* Contract encreas'd the Conſumption of them abroad, and that twenty Hogſheads would yield them 200 *l.* to 250 *l. Sterling*, the Planters then diſregarded

their

their Manufactories in a great measure, and we should still have supply'd them with all Kinds, and in as great Quantities as usual, if this occasional Commencement had not given the Workmen and Servants employ'd therein, a Taste of the Profits arising therefrom; which has encourag'd and put them upon improving several Branches to a great degree of Perfection. This has been the fatal Consequence of our ill-judg'd Policy, in distressing and endeavouring to keep them poor and dependent upon us; and the same Measures continu'd, will serve only to encrease such bad Effects. *France* has already but too apparently discover'd her Design to distress and ruin, if possible, our Commerce and Navigation with all our Neighbours abroad; therefore can it be suppos'd that *Spain* and *Naples* are not influenc'd by *French* Councils, in prohibiting our Manufactures, and making the Regulations they are now upon, to our Prejudice? Is not *France* at this time in Treaty with several, and endeavouring with many other Powers of *Europe*, to settle a Treaty of Trade and Commerce with them? And if they should succeed therein, what then will remain but for them to allure and engage our Northern Colonies to come into their Scheme and thereby compleat what they have been so long labouring after?— It is our indispensable Interest then, not to defer longer the putting a Stop to a Correspondence between our Co-

lonies

nies and the *French* Settlements in *America*; nce the Continuance of it may be attended ith ſuch fatal Conſequences: And I humbly onceive no Method will more effectually nduce thereto, than what I at firſt pro- s'd, of diverting their Shipping from their d Channel, by opening to them a new and eneficial Branch of Trade and Navigation; nd at the ſame time to encourage them to ife and improve all manner of Neceſſaries, hich we are at preſent ſupply'd with from road, ſuch as Pitch and Tar, Hemp, Flax, on, Pot-Aſh, *&c.* which, as it will be very uch to their Emolument, ſo it will in a ore peculiar manner redound to the Advan- e of *Great-Britain*.

THE Inhabitants of our Northern Colonies, s well known, do from their Produce and the rofit of their Trade to the Sugar Colonies, t barely make ſufficient Returns to *Great-ritain* for the Neceſſaries they are ſupply'd ith; and if they had proper Encouragement improve their Eſtates, they would doubtleſs quire much larger Supplies from us. They ve generally very extenſive Runs of Land, d but very little of it in proportion improv'd it might be to their and our Advantage. In a Country very plentiful and healthy, but e Inhabitants for the generality poor: Few the Eſtates there would enable the Propri- ors, if they were to come to *England*, to e and keep company with thoſe of a mid-

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ling Rank: Therefore, from what I have obſerv'd before, there is a much greater probability by diſtreſſing them, to put them upon thinking how to change their Condition, than by all the Encouragement that can be given them. Independency is what from the nature of their Situation and the unfeaſibleneſs of ſuch a Scheme, can ſcarce ever come into their Heads: But Neceſſity may force them to what would be as fatal, and induce them to endeavour to ſhake off one Yoke (as they might term it) to put on another, that they might imagine would ſit lighter upon them. If by Indulgence from their Mother Country they improve their Eſtates, the Merchants and Adventurers here, who trade with them, will find the good Effects, by having quicker Returns and larger Demands for neceſſary Supplies; and if there ſhould remain any thing out of the yearly Produce over and above the neceſſary Contingencies, it may be reaſonably ſuppos'd, it will either be laid up in Bank here, or expended in Improvements there; both which are beneficial to the Nation.

In ſhort, It is our Colonies that have render'd our Commerce and Navigation ſo extenſive as it is at preſent; without them we ſhould not be able in *Great-Britain* to find a Supply of Timber for one half of the Shipping that are neceſſarily employ'd therein; for notwithſtanding the Care and Wiſdom of the Legiſlature to promote and encourage the

Growth

rowth of *Engliſh* Oak, the Demand for it is ill ſo conſiderable, that very little is to be had t what is fallen before it comes to full rowth; which renders it leſs durable than herwiſe it would be; inſomuch, that it has en very difficult to obtain a ſufficient Quan- y of ſuch as is proper for the Uſe of the oyal Navy. What then muſt have been the nſequence, if we had been without the traordinary Supply of Timber and Shipping ich our Colonies have furniſh'd us with for Merchants Service? Our Timber would have been long ſince conſum'd, and we ve to a Dependency on the Eaſt Country Supplies, which we muſt have purchas'd heir own Rates, and paid for it chiefly in lion; Ship-Building, which now in *England* s about 6 *l. per* Ton, would have been 'd thereby to at leaſt 13 *l.* or it may be re. This extraordinary Advance on our ncipal Materials and firſt Out-ſet would have en our Neighbours ſo conſiderable an Ad- tage over us, as might quickly have enabled m to gain ſeveral Branches of Navigation of our Hands, which we have hitherto, ſtill retain only by Means of the cheap ply of Shipping we are furniſh'd with n our Northern Colonies. Beſides, the ion has already experienc'd the good Effect Benefit of the Encouragement given them a Bounty on all Pitch and Tar made there. are now almoſt wholly ſupply'd from

thence with thoſe Commodities, and ſome e-
qually good with the beſt from *Stockholm*. If
the like Indulgence were to be granted on all
Hemp rais'd in our Colonies, it would doubt-
leſs in a few Years be attended with the ſame
good Effect; and as nothing can be more be-
neficial to the Kingdom of *Great-Britain*,
than to render it ſelf abſolutely independent
on any of its Neighbours, for all the Materials
proper and neceſſary to promote and encreaſe
our Navigation; ſo this being an Article of
the greateſt Conſequence, ought beyond all
diſpute to be improv'd to the very utmoſt it
is capable of. Hemp-ſeed has already been
ſown in *Virginia* by way of Trial, and was
found to produce moſt ſurprizingly; and the
Quality of it ſuperior to any yet known in
Europe, except that of *Ancona*, which it re-
ſembles the neareſt of any, both for Fineneſs
and Staple; and if it does not in ſome reſ-
pects exceed it, it is at leaſt equal to it in all,
as appears by a Proof that was made, as I
have been credibly inform'd, of ſome of the
Virginia Hemp at one of His Majeſty's Yards
againſt ſome of the beſt *Rigarbine*, *Peterſburgh*
and *Ancona* Hemps. Theſe were all ſpun and
work'd by the ſame Hands into Ropes of equal
Dimenſions, and then brought to the Capſtan
together and ſtrain'd: The *Riga* and *Peterſ-*
burgh parted immediately, whilſt the *Virginia*
and *Ancona* held to the laſt, without being able
to determine to which to give the Preference.

Again,

Again, Hemp requires a ſwampy Soil to produce it in Quantity and Perfection: And this Kind of Land they have in *Virginia* for nothing; it being unfit for planting Tobacco, or for any other Uſe that the Inhabitants are yet appriz'd of; and therefore whenever any Purchaſes are made, or Lands laid out, whatever Quantity there is of this Sort, is never reckon'd into the Meaſurement, but thrown into the Bargain. Another Circumſtance in its favour is, that the Cultivation and Manufactoring of it happens at a Seaſon of the Year when the Planters have nothing to do; ſo that it will no ways interfere with or leſſen the Tobacco Concern. In fine, they have all the natural Advantages for raiſing it that can be deſir'd; and there ſeems nothing to be wanting to put them vigorouſly on this beneficial and important Branch, but a proper Encouragement from hence; and if the Government would take it into their Protection, ſupply them at firſt with a Quantity of Seed, and, as is before hinted, indulge them with a ſmall Bounty on their Produce, I am perſuaded that within the compaſs of a very few Years, we ſhould not only have ſufficient for our own Conſumption, but to ſupply foreign Markets; which from the Advantage of Situation, and Plenty of navigable Rivers in *Virginia*, would be done, and could be afforded at a much cheaper Rate than from any other Country

whatever from whence it is brought to us at preſent.

INDEED it is to be very much lamented, that particular Intereſt has ſo frequently prevail'd to the Diſadvantage of the publick Good; of which we have a moſt flagrant Inſtance in the Oppoſition to the Propoſals that were made for encouraging and promoting the Manufacture of Iron in our Northern Colonies. We annually take off very large Quantities from *Sweden*, *Ruſſia*, *Norway*, *Bilboa*, which the Nation chiefly pays for with Bullion; all which might be ſav'd to us by our own Colonies, if proper Encouragement had been given them. What is already made there exceeds any in *Europe* for making of Axes, Sheers to cut Bars or Plates of Iron, Copper, *&c.* Nor is there any Art yet known amongſt us that can bring Iron of the Produce of any other Country to ſo good a Temper for thoſe Uſes; and for any one to ſay, that it is not fit for all the Uſes that either the *Swediſh* or the *Spaniſh* Iron is put to, is really paſſing a Judgment without foundation, or elſe being quite ignorant of the Nature of Minerals. It is well known they have Variety of Iron Oars in the Northern Colonies; and theſe, by being ſeparate or mix'd, affords Iron of different Qualities, and not only ſo, but a different Treatment in the Furnace and Forge will in a great meaſure alter their natural Qualities, or drive out ſuch particular concomitant mineral

eral Matter as the Oar may be overcharg'd with, and render it fit for various and all Uſes whatever. —— It undoubtedly requires Time and Experience in all Undertakings to attain Perfection; and what is ſo very much for the Publick Good deſerves the publick Encouragement. There never was yet, nor ever will be, an Improvement ſet on foot, or a Law made for the Benefit of Society, that did not in ſome reſpect or other, interfere with and affect private and particular Intereſts; nor indeed in the nature of things is it poſſible it ſhould be otherwiſe: But if ſuch private and particular Intereſts had been always ſuffer'd to come in competition with, and gain the aſcendant of the national Welfare, we muſt have been to this Hour in a State of Dependency on our Neighbours for every Convenience of Life in regard to Trade, and in a State of Diſorder and Confuſion in regard to Government. The Intereſt of a Part, ought always to give way to that of the Whole; and more particularly ſo, when that Part is but a trifling one in proportion to the Whole. Therefore, if ever this advantagious Propoſal ſhould again be brought upon the Carpet, I hope it may find Protection and Encouragement from thoſe worthy Guardians of our Rights, who muſt determine its Fate; and who, when duly and thoroughly appriz'd of the Importance and Benefit of it, will not ſuffer Prejudice and Prepoſſeſſion to get the better

better of Reaſon and Demonſtration. As for the Oppugners of this and all other uſeful Schemes (I mean thoſe who oppoſe them from ſelfiſh Motives, not thoſe who are led into ſuch Oppoſition by Miſrepreſentations and falſe Gloſſes) they cannot fail of entailing the Curſes of Poſterity on themſelves, and will be remembred by the odious Epithet of having been Enemies to the national Good of their Country. I think I need ſay no more to enforce the Reaſons I have already given, than to add, that if *France*, or any other Power ſhould be enabled from the Dearneſs of our Land, and high Wages of our Manufacturers, or from other adjunct or ſeparate Cauſes, to underſel us abroad in the Woollen or any other Manufacture of *Great-Britain*, and that our Northern Colonies by the Cheapneſs of their Lands and Labour, ſhould be able to afford the ſame Manufactures at a lower Rate than the *French* or any of our Neighbours can; the Northern Colonies ought immediately to be put upon thoſe very Manufactures, if we mean to promote the Intereſt of this Kingdom, and prevent other Nations from gaining thoſe Branches out of our Hands; for it is demonſtrably true, that the Proſperity and flouriſhing State of our Colonies, is not more Their own particular Advantage than it is Ours, let it be view'd and taken in what Shape or Light ſoever.

THE Advantages of Trade are now ſo enerally well known to all Parts of Mankind, at it might be deem'd a kind of Impertience to enter into the Proofs of it. The and Queſtion is, How it may be beſt culti-ted and improv'd? And that, I think, can done but two Ways: The firſt is by Ma-factures of our own Production, which is e moſt certain as well as the moſt profitable; it renders our Lands more valuable, enables Landholder thereby to pay a more extra-linary Contribution, whenever Neceſſity quires it, towards the Support of the Go-nment: Add to this the Duties on what is ported from abroad for the Returns of our ports. The other is by our Navigation, ich, if as cheap as our Neighbours, will ble us to make the ſame, or equal Advan-es, as the *Dutch* now do by foreign Produce d Manufactures, which they purchaſe and ply from one Market to another. But ther of theſe will ever ſucceed, if by too avy Taxes on the firſt, and too high Duties d Charges on the ſecond, the Manufactures Commodities are render'd at foreign Mar-s dearer than they can be afforded for by Neighbours. The *French* have many ſiderable Advantages againſt us in Their anufactures: In the firſt place they do not y one half the Tax and Duties we do, which kes their Labour come out cheaper: And the next place, ours is made dearer, not

only

only from the extraordinary Taxes and Duties, but from the Imprudence of our Manufacturers, who are often tempted to quit the Country and come up to *London* for the ſake of extraordinary Wages; not conſidering the Difference of Expence between living in the Country, and what they muſt neceſſarily be at in Town, beſides unneceſſary Diverſions from their Buſineſs, whereto they are not liable, and under no temptation either from Example or Inclination in the Country; which in the end makes them poorer than if they had continu'd where they were. This however renders our Labour dearer, and ſeveral of our Manufactures too high to ſend to any foreign Market with Profit. Our Silk Manufacture is a particular Inſtance of this kind; 'tis allow'd by Foreigners to be equal, if not better than any other made in *Europe*, and employs many thouſand Hands in this City for our own Conſumption only. 'Tis pity that a Manufacture ſo conſiderable as it might be made, had not proper Encouragement given, to enable us to make Exports of it to foreign Markets. At preſent we purchaſe our Organzine, or Thrown-Silk, for Caſh chiefly, at *Piedmont*, and for whatever Price they are pleas'd to put upon it; but this might be ſoon remedy'd if the Government thought proper to permit the Importation of ſuch Silk from *China*; where it may be had at 60 *per Cent.* firſt Coſt leſs than we now pay for it.

This

his would at once oblige the *Piedmonteze* to
art with what Silk they might have over
nd above what is neceſſary for their own
onſumption, at a low or at leaſt a moderate
ate; and we ſhould be by this means ena-
led, by the great Difference in the firſt Coſt,
ſell our Silk Manufacture as cheap abroad
any of our Neighbours; and, I think, 'tis
arce a doubt, but that the Goodneſs of ours
ould gain us the Preference and Markets.
have mention'd this particular Branch as an
ſtance only; but there are ſeveral others
at might be equally improv'd by proper
eans and Encouragement; and tho' it be
reſſing from my firſt Propoſal (which was
conſider the State of our Sugar Colonies
mpar'd with thoſe of the *French*) yet I
ought it might not be wholly impertinent
the Occaſion; and therefore I have but
ghtly touch'd on it as it fell in my way.

THE *French* have already gain'd upon us in
moſt every Branch of our foreign Trade,
d particularly in the Woollen Manufactory;
d if that be taken out of our hands, what
aterials or Commodities of the Produce of
reat-Britain ſhall we have remaining, that
y enable us any longer to continue and car-
on a Trade with our Neighbours? I know
none but our Leather, Corn, and Oars, or
etals; whereto indeed may be added our
ool; which it then would be our Intereſt
part with all we could of, except what was

juſt neceſſary for our own Conſumption; and a further Conſequence would be, that we muſt expect to ſee our Lands reduced again to as low a Rate as they were in former Ages, before the Advantages of Trade were known amongſt us. In reality our Safety, our Liberty, our All depends upon our Trade: It is by That, whilſt it is free, open and encourag'd, not cramp'd, confin'd and render'd burthenſome, we are enabled to put off our own ſuperfluous Produces, and in return ſupply our ſelves with plenty of other Conveniences of Life from our Neighbours, as well for our own Uſe, as for Exportation again either directly or manufactur'd for theirs; which is an additional Profit to the Nation. By Trade we ſhare Gold and Silver, the Riches of our Neighbours; provided that Trade be manag'd as it ought, ſo as to leave a Ballance in our favour. On our Trade depends the neceſſary Supplies requir'd for the ſupport of the Crown and Government; the Value of our Lands is conſiderably encreas'd thereby, and the Landholders conſequently enabled to give their Supplies in proportion; and the ſame will hold in regard to the Revenue ariſing from the Cuſtoms. This ineſtimable Jewel we are now in the utmoſt danger of loſing; the *French* bid very fair to carry it from us, and will (if the ſame Meaſures, Attention and Encouragement, be continued by them for a few Years longer; and we in the mean time

continue

continue in the ſame Temper of Indifference and Remiſsneſs in regard to it) in all likelihood gain their Ends. It may then be too late to ſucceed by our utmoſt Contrivance and Application, to turn it again into our own Channel. We are not to expect that the moſt ſolemn Treaties, or any other Engagement will prevent *France* from making uſe of all the Opportunities and Advantages, that may at any time preſent themſelves, to promote and compaſs the grand Deſign they have long had in View. Let us only conſider what Lengths they run in the late Queen *Anne*'s Reign, againſt ſo formidable an Alliance as was then on foot; when the Advantages of Trade was ſcarce known to them, or at leaſt neglected or deſpis'd by the Court and the ſuperior Gentry among them. What then may We and the reſt of *Europe* expect, now that their Revenues are greatly augmented by their Trade, and the Value of their Lands rais'd ſo as to enable the Subjects to pay more than double the Tax they could formerly? While ours at the ſame time, if neglected, may perhaps go diminiſhing as much in proportion. What ſurprizing Succeſs has the Trade from the *French* Sugar Colonies been attended with by the Indulgence and Care of their Government? 'Tis not above twelve Years ſince they firſt began to have any Share in the Supply of Sugar to foreign Markets; and in a very ſhort time after, they gain'd that valuable

Branch of Trade entirely from us. I think by a moderate Computation the foreign Conſumption which they ſupply, cannot be leſs than eighty thouſand Hogſheads of Sugar *per Annum*; to which may be added fifteen thouſand more, which they find means to introduce amongſt us in *Great-Britain* as *Engliſh* Produce, through our own neighbouring Iſlands; making in the whole ninety five thouſand Hogſheads of Sugar, which at a Medium of 8 *l.* 10 *s.* *per* Hogſhead, amounts to ——— *l.* 807.500

The Produce of their Indigo from thence is now one Year with another, in Value about a Million Sterling; out of which if two hundred and fifty thouſand be deducted for their own Conſumption, there will remain —— 750.000

Their Cocao, Cotton, Ginger, Rum and Molaſſes, *&c.* for Exportation, beſides what they conſume themſelves, about — 250.000

Making in the whole clear annual Profit to the Kingdom of *France* *l.* 1.807.500

Beſides the Freight thereon, as well as the Supplies for their own Conſumption; which I believe cannot be leſs than 7 to 800.000 *l.* more; and all this paid for, with the Product and Manufacture of their own Kingdom; to the great Increaſe and Encouragement of their Trade and Navigation. To this if we add the

Conſumption

Conſumption and Profit on *French* Manufac-
ures, and their *Eaſt-India* Goods, which they
ntroduce to very great Advantage among the
paniſh Settlements and our own Colonies;
nd join thereto the very great Improvement
nd profitable Encreaſe, which their Sugar
olonies have enabled them to make in their
rade to *Africa*, we ſhall have abundant rea-
n to admire the Penetration and Judgment
that Court, who could foreſee at ſuch a
ſtance the immenſe Advantages their Colo-
es in time would prove to them, if properly
ncourag'd. It was but in their Infancy, when
ey were not able even to raiſe ſufficient for
eir own Conſumption, that the Council of
mmerce, *Anno* 1701, in their Memorial ſet
rth " That the Navigation of *France* ow'd
all its Encreaſe and Splendor to the Com-
merce of its Sugar Iſlands; and that it could
not be kept up and enlarg'd otherwiſe than
by this Commerce." This is now become
inſtructive Leſſon to us for our Improve-
ent, founded on Experience; and which
ght to put us upon retrieving, before it be
o late, the Advantages we have either loſt
neglected. We ought to conſider, the
dvantage is doubly in favour of *France*, while
ey acquire and we loſe in any Branch of our
rade. That from our Sugar Colonies was
moſt inſtantaniouſly ſnatch'd from us, after
e *French* had once got footing and ſhar'd
ith us. Our Woollen Manufacture I think

is in no leſs danger of being loſt to us: It is but too well known what Progreſs has been lately made in That and other Manufactures in *France*, and what Share they have gain'd for them at foreign Markets, to the Prejudice and Diminution of our own. And I may venture to ſay, without the Spirit of Prophecy, that a continuance of the ſame Encouragement and Policy in *France*, and of our Supineneſs and lethargick Neglect, for half a ſcore Years longer (or perhaps leſs may do the buſineſs) will as effectually enable them to carry the Woollen Trade entirely from us, as they have already the Sugar Trade. What muſt be the Conſequence if ever it ſhould be our Misfortune to be reduc'd to the miſerable Circumſtance of having loſt all our Trade? Our Riches, our Money muſt go along with it; it will never remain where it can't be employ'd and laid out advantagiouſly. The Supplies we have been accuſtom'd to receive of Bullion and other Commodities from foreign Markets in return for our own Manufactures, will of courſe be drawn to *France*, if thoſe Manufactures can be had there cheaper. It will be in vain, under ſuch Circumſtances, to continue our Exports, and endeavour to force a Trade abroad; for that would only tend the ſooner to ruin us, and impoveriſh us the more; as the Ballance of all Trade muſt in ſuch caſe be againſt us; and that Ballance can be made good no other way, than by draining us of our

r Coin: What then muſt our Government
ve recourſe to, for the neceſſary Contingen-
es and Charges requir'd for its ſupport? Our
nds muſt be lower'd in Value, and unable
furniſh the uſual Supplies: The Revenues
m the Duties almoſt entirely ſunk, and
thing but the threatning Face of arbitrary
overnment and Slavery will appear to us, in
e growing Power, Ambition and Policy of
ance. What muſt become of the Mer-
nts and Manufacturers, who compoſe the
ateſt Part of his Majeſty's Subjects, and on
om the reſt of the Nation in general de-
nd in a great meaſure for their Subſiſtence,
en they have no Means left 'em to gain
ir Livelihood? Will *France* neglect ſo fair
Opportunity to foment Diſſentions and Diſ-
tent in the meaner Sort, and endeavour to
apt them from their Allegiance, by Promi-
of extraordinary Encouragement and Ad-
tages in their Trade? Or will not all that
be aſk'd of that Court be readily comply'd
h, to gain them over to their Intereſt, in
er thereby to further the grand Deſign of
verſal Monarchy they have always ſo ap-
ently in view, as well as the extending
ir Commerce? Both which they are much
re likely to ſucceed in by their Policy,
n ever they were by their Arms. Nor
haps would they find any great Difficulty,
en Matters were gone thus far, to carry
ir Point in the Northern Climates. We

have

have had but too frequent Examples of Men
eminent Stations in ſeveral Courts of *Europ*
far above Want, the ordinary Temptation
the Vulgar, who yet have been influenced b
French Artifice and *French* Gold, to embar
in Meaſures which they knew were prejudi
cial and deſtructive to their King and Country
We have abundant reaſon to thank Provi
dence, that this is not our Caſe at preſent
But ſince ſuch Examples are to be found a
mongſt the Great, we are not to expect th
People who have no other Dependance
Way to live by than Trade, ſhould be mo
Virtuous than their Superiors, and not
tempted to run all Hazards ſooner than peri
for Want. However, we may be thoroughl
aſſur'd, that *France* will ever fail in the At
tempt, if we have equal Encouragement fo
carrying on and extending our Trade und
our own Government; becauſe there then c
be no room left to heſitate in the Choice b
tween a Free and an Arbitrary One. Th
Nation in general never had leſs Affection
France and Fetters than at preſent; nor ev
diſcover'd ſo hearty a Reſentment againſt he
nor indeed with greater reaſon: And 'tis ver
much our Intereſt to continue in the ſam
Diſpoſition towards her, if we mean to rega
the Advantages ſhe has depriv'd us of, a
diſappoint her deep concerted Machinatio
to enſlave us. We have had but too muc
experience of *French* Policy and Practice
n

ot to be able, at this time of Day, to ſee pret-
far into them; and to diſcover that from
ence, thoſe wild and frantick Notions have
eir Riſe, which have been ſo induſtriouſly
fus'd into the Minds of the People: That
ir M——y have Views of eſtabliſhing an Ar-
trary Government among us; and inſinuating
hat, as a Reaſon why our Trade and Naviga-
n has been ſo long neglected and impair'd.
eir pernicious Schemes may indeed have di-
ted in ſome meaſure the Attention of our
——y from thoſe important Conſiderations,
employing their Time and Thoughts how
circumvent them: But, as it can never be the
ereſt of any Prince that ſhall ſit on the *Bri-*
Throne, to make an attempt on the Li-
ties of his People, by endeavouring at abſo-
Monarchy; nor yet to neglect the Encou-
ement of his trading Subjects, whereon his
n Support and Security depend (ſuppoſing
t we ſhould ever be ſo unfortunate as to have
rince weak enough to aim at the one, or
piſe the other); ſo neither can it be conſiſtent
h the Safety of his Miniſters, to aid and
ſt him therein; however abandon'd they
be to the Good of their Country: For
deprav'd and rapacious Miniſters can ne-
be ſecure, even when they have effected
ir vile Bargains, and barter'd the Peoples
erties for their own private Wealth and
ndeur; for tho' their unjuſtifiable and ill
Power may ſcreen 'em for a time from the

publick Reſentment, and the Laws of thei
Country; it cannot defend 'em from the hor
rid and deſperate Attempts of a *Poltrot* or
Felton: Nor yet will it be leſs the Concer
of the Nobility and landed Gentry, to be watch
ful againſt any Innovations that may have th
leaſt Tendency that way; for it would be e
qually fatal to Them, whether they becam
Slaves to *France* or to any other Power; ſinc
the Conſequence of their Neglect would be, t
be kept low and diſtreſs'd, to prevent their eve
having Means or Opportunity to regain the
priſtine Freedom. But in this particular w
may think our ſelves beyond moſt Nations, fu
as happy as we are ſecure, that no ſuch Attac
will be made on our Liberties, as long as
ſhall pleaſe God to continue us the Bleſſing
our preſent Sovereign's moſt auſpicious Reig
and the glorious Proſpect we have from h
numerous Royal Progeny. The Intereſt an
Security of our Prince and People are mutual
the moment they are divided under any pr
tence of advantaging either, *France* will nev
fail to improve ſuch Diviſion to the ruin
both. 'Tis by our Trade that the Revenue
riſes, and to that likewiſe is owing the extra
ordinary Value of our Lands; from both whic
are obtain'd the neceſſary Supplies, that mu
enable the Crown to protect the Subject, an
the Subject thereby encourag'd to defend th
Crown. I think theſe Motives ought ſtrongl
to unite us at this time, and put us on ou
guar

uard againſt all the Endeavours and ſecret tratagems of our common Enemy to divide s, and thereby embarraſs the prudent Meaſures f our Miniſtry; and in return, we need not oubt but the ſame Reaſons will engage the iniſtry to conſider more deliberately on Ways nd Means to improve our Trade and Naviga- on; whereon the Proſperity and Safety of the rown, the Government and theſe Kingdoms tirely depend. This *France* knows full well; d therefore no wonder that ſhe will exert r utmoſt Endeavours to deſtroy both; or that e is loth to put to the iſſue of a Trial by her rms, what ſhe is in hopes of atchieving ſo uch eaſier by her Policy: But even in the rmer of theſe we are not to truſt entirely to r wonted Succeſs: If we conſider the Gran- ur and Power whereto their Trade and Na- gation have rais'd 'em, and compare it with e Circumſtances they were in, at the moſt uriſhing Period of *Lewis* the Fourteenth. he Subjects of *France* were then poor, and eir Trade little or nothing towards enabling e Merchants or landed Intereſt among them, raiſe any very conſiderable Contributions for e ſupport of the War they were then engag'd ; and yet they found means to maintain emſelves for a long time againſt a very for- idable Alliance, as well as to corrupt, with hat little Money they had, wherever they und it neceſſary. What then may we not pect, now their Wealth is ſo conſiderably

augmented; their Shipping and Sailors encreas'd by the enlargement of their Trade and Navigation to their Colonies, *Africa*, *Turkey*, *East-Indies*, their Fishery, and to all Parts of *Europe*? which has given them a very fair prospect of drawing in a few Years all the Riches of *Europe* and *America* to themselves. Its certain this is a Concern of so much importance in the sequel to all the other *European* Powers in general, as makes it almost a common Cause, and requires their joint Endeavours and Councils to prevent. We have but too many flagrant Instances of the Use they are on all occasions ready to make of their Interest and Power. The late Treaty which they influenced so much to the prejudice of the Czarina and the Emperor, together with the hopeful Assistance they have given the *Genoese* against the *Corsicans*, are Specimens of this kind among infinite others; and may serve to shew us the *quantum valeat* of such Mediators. We see *Spain* already taken in the Snare by the Measures and unnatural Alliance (in regard to the true Interest of the Nation, tho' natural enough with respect to their *French* extracted Monarch) she is engag'd in with them; and the Advantages given them in encouraging their Trade. They already share at least one Third of the whole carried on to *New-Spain* in the Flota and Galleons. They have artfully led *Spain* into a War with us, and by that means made Her dependent on them for the

privat

vate neceſſary Supplies to carry it on; and
hich they will doubtleſs encourage, 'till ſhe is ſo
ſerably diſtreſſed and low, that they may inſiſt
on their own terms, tho' never ſo inconſiſtent
th Reaſon and Juſtice, or the Intereſt of *Spain*
comply with. It is not probable, that *France*
ll then be ſatisfied barely with a few extraor-
nary Indulgencies and Priviledges in the Trade
the *Spaniſh Weſt-Indies*, more than what her
bjects enjoy already. No! ſhe will more pro-
bly put the *Spaniards* again upon demand-
Reſtitution of *Gibraltar* and *Port Mahon*;
hich, whatever Light it may have commonly
en taken in, has been always a *French*, and
t a *Spaniſh* Demand) with a view of having
m as a Reward for their Services and Supplies.
ey would then be able at all times to unite
ir Fleets in the *Mediterranean* and *Weſt-*
ance, which it's now in our power to prevent,
henever we pleaſe; and happy it is for *Spain*
t they are in our Hands; they would ſoon
l the fatal Conſequence if it were other-
ſe. On the whole, there ſeems to be nothing
t to hinder the growing Power of *France*,
d the ill Conſequences that muſt thereby ac-
ue to every State in *Europe*, unleſs by a for-
dable and natural Alliance we ſhould en-
ge in a ſucceſsful War againſt them; or that
e turn our Thoughts wholly and immediately,
fore it be too late, on the Improvement of
r Trade and Navigation, by all the Methods
e have remaining in our power: We muſt

afford

afford our Manufactures cheaper abroad tha
France can, or we do nothing. To effect thi
they muſt be raiſed and improv'd, and other
ſet on foot (without regard to particular In-
tereſts) in ſuch Parts of His Majeſty's Domini-
ons where the Labour and Materials are to b
had at the moſt eaſy rates. If the Duty on an
foreign Commodity is ſo high, as not to admi
of an Export, after it is manufactur'd here (a
is the caſe of our Silk Manufactory at preſent, a
well as ſome others that might be named) tha
ought to be made eaſy, to enable the Merchan
to find a Vend for it abroad; and the loweri
of the Duty would ſoon be made good
gain by the encreaſe on the Importation. Th
brings to my mind another Article of no ſma
diſadvantage to us, as it encourages the *Frenc*
Trade in particular, at the ſame time that i
prejudices our own; and That is the high Du
on our Teas, which has occaſioned ſuch im
menſe Quantities of this Commodity to be ru
in upon us to almoſt every Part of His Ma-
jeſty's Dominions in *Europe*. This would b
effectually remedied, if the Duty upon it wa
ad Valorem; and That, without in the lea
Degree leſſening the Revenue. I am ſo con
fident of the Truth of this Aſſertion, that I dar
anſwer to find private Gentlemen, who woul
give undoubted Security to make good th
Duties it generally has produc'd *communibu*
annis, provided they may be entitled to what i
ſhall amount to more: But this is what mor

immediatel

mediately concerns our *East-India* Compa-
, who would thereby, have a Conſumption
r more than double what they now import,
d therefore deſerves their Conſideration; as
ewiſe, whether it would not be more their
dvantage to ſell their Cargoes in the manner
y do in *Holland* and *France*, and ſave thereby
e Expence of Warehouſe-room, *&c.* as it
ght be attended with one good Conſequence,
at of driving the *French* quite out of the
de; who, as I have been inform'd, begin
ady to be tired of it. There are a great many
er valuable Branches of Trade that might
mprov'd by the ſame Method; but to enu-
ate them all, would be too tedious; eſpeci-
; I have already run to a much greater length
n I at firſt propoſed: I ſhall therefore reſume
Obſervations on the Trade of our *American*
lonies; from whence alone we may expect
ime to be enabled to reduce and curb, if not
the *French* Navigation. They acknow-
ge it's Riſe and Support to proceed from
r Sugar Iſlands; thoſe again are dependent
great meaſure, on our *Northern* Colonies;
They, if Iron, Hemp and Flax were once
ivated, encouraged and improv'd amongſt
, would then afford us all the Neceſſaries
fitting out his Majeſty's Navy; beſides a-
ſtant Supply of Ships and Veſſels for the
argement of our Navigation in the Mer-
nt Service; as they might be finiſhed and
to Sea at a much cheaper rate than they

could

could in any Part of *Europe*. We ſhould the
be abſolutely independent of any Power fo
Supplies; and by Time and proper Encourage
ment, might expect to ſee moſt of the tradin
Powers in *Europe* apply to us for them, as we ca
and may afford 'em cheaper than any other; an
as a Demand encreaſes, we ſhall, by practice, im
prove both in our Culture and Manufacture o
them: As our Neighbours who now furni
them, muſt decline thoſe Manufactures, in pro
portion as they come to be leſs demanded fro
them. Under theſe improv'd Circumſtances, w
may always have it in our Power to enable t
Britiſh Subjects to navigate cheaper than o
Neighbours, by laying a ſmall Duty on all ſuc
Commodities as are neceſſary for that purpoſ
on Exportation for foreign Markets only; y
ſuch as may not drive thoſe who would othe
wiſe deal with us, to ſeek Supplies elſewher
We ſhould then have nothing more to do, tha
to guard againſt the *French*, and effectuall
prevent them from taking advantage of ſuc
Improvements, by any Efforts they may mak
to carry on a Commerce and Correſponden
from their Sugar Iſlands to our *Northern* C
lonies; the ill Conſequence whereof I ha
already ſhewn, and propos'd a Method o
Cure for, which would very much abate,
not entirely remove this Nuſance; and I ha
a further ſecret Satisfaction, when I reflect th
there ſtill remains a ſure means in our ow
Power, effectually to reduce, and by degre
abſolute

olutely ruin the Trade of the *French* Sugar lonies: But as this is a Scheme that it may be proper at this juncture to make pub-; I ſhall reſerve it for the peruſal of thoſe, oſe Approbation of it may add weight ough to procure its being put in Execution.

I THINK the Obſervations I have made on firſt Condition, mention'd towards the inning of this Diſcourſe, will be ſufficient hew the Diſadvantages that muſt ariſe to Trade and Navigation, from the ſecond third; and therefore, to avoid Repetitions, all only obſerve, in objection to the laſt, at it is a very hard Caſe on any *Britiſh* ling Subject, who has only a temporary idence in foreign Parts, and has never vi-ed his Allegiance, nor forfeited his natural viledges, by adhering or valuing himſelf on ſe of the Country where he reſides, To be arr'd and cut off from reaping any Advan-e as an Owner, in Ships that are licenſed carry Sugars from our Colonies directly to eign Markets, for no other Reaſon than t of his living abroad; which I muſt beg ve to ſay, is a Diſcouragement to Trade, d may, in ſome occaſional Reſpects, be a amp on our Navigation, as well as that it ms to carry a kind of a tacit Implication of Crime. It is undoubtedly the Intereſt of e Nation, as well on a political Account as a natural One, to have ſeveral of its trad-

ing Members diſpers'd in all Parts where
our Trade is extended; by which means th
Commiſſions, and other incidental Perquiſite
on all Conſignments (which otherwiſe would
be the particular Advantage of thoſe of th
Country to whom ſuch Conſignments mu
neceſſarily be made) would centre among ou
ſelves, as well as the Proceeds of the Cargo
It were really to be wiſh'd, That there wa
ſomewhat more of a publick Spirit among
the generality of our trading Gentlemen, tha
there ſeems to be; that would engage the
to give the Preference in their Orders a
Conſignments, to thoſe of their own Countr
where any ſuch are reſiding, rather than
Foreigners; which would not only be an A
of National Juſtice, but be one Means of pr
venting a Practice that I am afraid is but to
frequent; That of ſcreening the Effects
Aliens from the Extra Duties which ſuch a
oblig'd by the Law to pay. I would not
thought to inſinuate that this unjuſtifiab
Procedure is general; for I am ſatisfy'd it
not; and that we have a great many Men
Worth and Probity among us, who wou
never permit their Private Intereſt to get t
Aſcendant of their Conſciences, and the Go
of their Country; but whoever has been co
verſant in Trade, muſt be convinc'd that th
is but too much room for Complaint in t
particular.

I m

I muſt here acknowledge, that inſtead of ſtrictly purſuing the Thread of my Diſcourſe, as at firſt propos'd, I have in ſeveral Parts of it been inſenſibly led into Digreſſions, that may ſeem at firſt view foreign to my Purpoſe; but as I have advanced nothing but what I ſincerely take to be for the Good of my native Country, abſtracted from any ſiniſter Principles, and at the ſame time own my ſelf to be very ſenſibly touch'd with the Danger we are in, of being ſtripp'd by our growing Rivals in Trade; I hope the candid Reader will not think ſuch Digreſſions wholly impertinent, but join his ardent Wiſhes to mine, that *Great-Britain* may retrieve her wonted Glory, and ride triumphant Miſtreſs of the Sea; and enable her natural born Subjects to extend their Commerce to Limits uncircumſcrib'd, and yet unknown; and that ſhe may ſtill prove, as ſhe has been in Times paſt, a Nurſe indulgent Protectreſs of her own Offſpring, and a Scourge to ſuch who make it their Study to aggrandize themſelves, by troubling the Repoſe of all the reſt of the World.

I ſhould now lay down my Pen, but that I think it a Duty incumbent upon me, to ſay a Word or two in vindication of the Planters in our Sugar Colonies, who have been barbarouſly abuſed by ſome ſcandalous Miſrepreſentations of them to People in Power here at home: And

what is a further Aggravation of their Wrongs is, that theſe falſe Lights have been hung out by ſuch who owe their Livelihood and Fortunes to theſe very People, that they thus endeavour to ſtigmatize. When the Sugar Bill was firſt mov'd for by ſome of our Planters and Merchants, here were not wanting ſeveral who oppoſed it publickly; and others, from ſome ſmall Senſe of Shame, to appear openly in ſacrificing the Intereſt of their Country in general, as well as their Conſtituents in particular, proceeded with more Caution, tho' not with more Truth, and gave their private Attendance and Opinions againſt it. Theſe worthy Gentlemen, on being queſtioned how the Planters came to be reduc'd to ſuch low Circumſtances, and what might occaſion their not being able to afford their Sugars as cheap as the *French*: Being deſtitute of an Anſwer and unwilling to betray their own Ignorance, have declar'd it was wholly owing to their Extravagance and profuſe Way of Life. A Calumny which, tho' it has very much prevail'd amongſt a great many here, is as falſe, as it is ſcandalous. No doubt, if this Accuſation had been true, it would have been a very juſtifiable Reaſon in the Government to have the leſs regard to the Planters Repreſentations and Complaints; as it might then have been their own Breaſts, by proper Retrenchment and Oeconomy, to have conteſted the Advan-

tage

e themſelves with the *French* Planters, with-
t the Intervention of the Government. But,
s! the Caſe is quite the reverſe. Few of
r Planters, even thoſe of them who are Ma-
rs of very conſiderable Fortunes, live at one
lf the Expence on themſelves and Families
at ſome of theſe pretendedly knowing
entlemen do, who are employed and get their
ead by them, and yet thus uncharitably cen-
e them: And if this is the Caſe with the
ſt, it's to be reaſonably inferr'd, as in fact
is ſo, that the middling and meaner Sort of
em do but barely get their Living, and are
en put to their ſhifts to do That. As here
s been too many of theſe abject Defamers,
I muſt acknowledge with Juſtice and par-
cular Pleaſure, that here likewiſe are ſome
entlemen of Honour, who have promoted
e Intereſt of their Conſtituents to the ut-
oſt of their Power, and been at all times
ady to juſtify them from ſuch groſs Falſ-
oods. Theſe ought, and doubtleſs will be
member'd with Honour and Gratitude by
eir Employers, while the former deſerve no
rther Countenance or Favour from them.
he true and only Reaſon then of the Planters
Complaints is their want of the regular Sea-
ons for their Crops. It is a thing notorious,
hat in ſeveral of our Iſlands, *Berbados* in parti-
cular, all the Encouragement that can be given
hem, joined to their own utmoſt Induſtry,

will

will hardly afford the Planter a bare Subsist-
ance: 'Tis the same in several parts of *Jamaica*,
where the Rains fail. It is not that their
Lands are worn out, as is vulgarly imagin'd;
for the oldest Lands, with regular Seasons,
afford the finest Sugars; and they require
much less time and expence in boiling and
curing, than Sugars produc'd from new
Grounds. A Continuation of six Years kindly
and seasonable Rains in *Barbados* and the dry
parts of *Jamaica*, would be sufficient to make
the Planter pretty easy in his Circumstances and
Fortune. The *French*, in Contraposition to this,
have these Advantages over us, That their
Lands are exceeding good, Their Seasons are
kind and regular; and besides these, are sup-
ported by their Government. They reap an-
other small Advantage indeed from their In-
humanity, which I do not mention as worthy
of imitation, but to shew, they will stick at no-
thing to gain their Ends: And That is, their
Custom of turning out their Slaves to work by
Moon-light, after having kept them hard at it
all Day; it being a common Maxim with them,
That if a Slave lasts 'em but four or five
Years, it is as much as they expect or desire.
This is a Treatment of human Race that is
abhorrent to an *Englishman*; and indeed, is
very widely different from what they meet
with amongst us: And I can affirm, that
such of them as do not forfeit their Proprie-
tor-

rs Kindneſs by tranſgreſſing againſt the Laws
the Country by Rebellion, or by open and
corrigible Acts of Injuſtice or Diſhoneſty,
e as eaſy, and happier far than the greateſt
rt of the better Poor, or People of low Rank
Great-Britain. And having now ſhewn
hat is, as well as what is not the real Grie-
nce of the Sugar Planters, I ſhall humbly
e my leave of Them and my Readers, 'till
rther Occaſion offers, wherein I think I
y be ſerviceable to either.

FINIS.

FINIS.